

Mi Chacra

(My Land)

1 x 52 or 1 x 99



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This film tells the story of a young indigenous Peruvian man who has lived most of his life in a small village in the mountains above the Sacred Valley. Like everyone in his community, he has been raised as a farmer. And like many, he has been instilled with the belief that life in the city would be better than the life he leads.

When Feliciano was young, his father would tell him, "You are not going to be like me. You will go to the city, you will study, and you will become something more." When Feliciano was sixteen, his father sent him to the city to work and study. But shortly after leaving his village, Feliciano's mother came to him to tell him his father had died. As the eldest son, Feliciano was forced to leave his school and return to his village to work his father's fields and care for his younger siblings.

"Luck did not accompany me, and I lost my education." That loss stuck with Feliciano as he grew and made a life for himself in his village. Now with a young son of his own, his desire is the same as his father's before him. Feliciano is determined to see his son study in the city, and become something more than he has become.

Framed by the seasons, the film chronicles a year in the young man's life, from planting to harvest, and through a season of work as a porter on the Inca Trail. See the processes, passed from father to son for generations, of planting crops, tending to them, and harvesting. Witness the transformation of the spectacular landscape from the browns and yellows of the dry season to the vivid greens of the rainy season and the harvest. And observe the back-breaking work of the porters as they make their way through the mountains on the trail to Machu Picchu. This film is an utter poetry of Feliciano's driving desire.

Interwoven with Feliciano's story is the complex history of his people. In his often poetic native language of Quechua, Feliciano recounts the history of the Incas, the conquest by the Spanish, and the years of the haciendas.

The film paints a vivid picture of this man's life, of the conflict between his love of the land and the work he has learned from his father, and the desire to see his son living what he sees as a better life in the city.

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CREDITS

Director/Producer: Jason Burlage

Photo Credit: Joel Shawn



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